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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/507,318

09/10/2004

Sven Bjorkgard

03438.0109

9062

22852

7590

12/11/2006

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW, GARRETT & DUNNER
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EXAMINER

SY, MARIANO ONG

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3683

DATE MAILED: 12/11/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/507,318

Applicant(s)

BJORKGARD, SVEN

Examiner

Mariano Sy

Art Unit

3683

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 October 2006 and 31 October 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 6-15 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 13 October 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. The amendment filed on October 13, 2006 has been received.
2. Newly submitted claims 6-15 in the Supplemental Amendment filed on October 31, 2006 are directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed for the following reasons: the coupling device recited in claims 6-15 can be any type of coupling device since Applicant failed to use the coupling device as recited in claim 1. Claims 6-15 are also claiming two arms for vehicle wheel axle suspension are classified under class 280, subclass 124.11; and the coupling device, by itself, is classified under class 267, subclass 141.3.

Since applicant has received an action on the merits for the originally presented invention, this invention has been constructively elected by original presentation for prosecution on the merits. Accordingly, claims 6-15 are withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. See 37 CFR 1.142(b) and MPEP § 821.03.

3. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 1, line 4 "a axial" should be --an axial--.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

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4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1, 4, and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brenner et al. (US 4,671,694).

Re-claims 1, 4, and 5 Brenner et al. disclosed, as shown in fig. 2, a coupling for resilient interconnection of two objects comprising an internal coupling device having a supporting piece 11 which extends in an axial direction and has an axial supporting piece portion, a rubber-elastic element 2 which is arranged around the supporting piece portion and has an outer surface extending parallel to the axial direction and two end surfaces extending substantially radially to the axial direction, and an external coupling device 1 comprising a tubular wall portion and cup-shaped abutment members are arranged to abut against end surfaces of the rubber-elastic element for axial compression thereof, wherein between the tubular wall portion and the rubber-elastic element, an axially extending sleeve 3 is mounted for relatively centering of the abutment members; wherein the rubber-elastic element is securely connected to the supporting piece; and wherein the sleeve is securely connected to the rubber-elastic element over a part of its length.

However Brenner et al. failed to disclose the external device is made of two parts.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the external device of Brenner et al. to be made of two parts instead of one part as a matter of design choice, in order to ease manufacturing.

6. Claims 2 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brenner et al. in view of Sprang et al. (US 5,340,220).

Re-claims 2 and 3 Brenner et al. failed to disclose wherein between the abutment members and the end surface of the rubber-elastic elements an annular disc is securely mounted to the rubber-elastic element.

Sprang et al. teaches, as shown in fig. 1-5, the use of annular disc 4, 5 in a coupling.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the coupling device of Brenner et al. with the known annular disc, as taught by Sprang et al., in order to add strength to the abutment members of the coupling device.

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 1 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

8. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

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A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mariano Sy whose telephone number is 571-272-7126. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri. from 8:30 A.M. to 2:30 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James McClellan, can be reached on 571-272-6786. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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ms M. Sy

November 27, 2006

DEVON C. KRAMER
PATENT EXAMINER

Devon Kramer
12/7/06

REPLACEMENT SHEET

1/4

Fig. 1

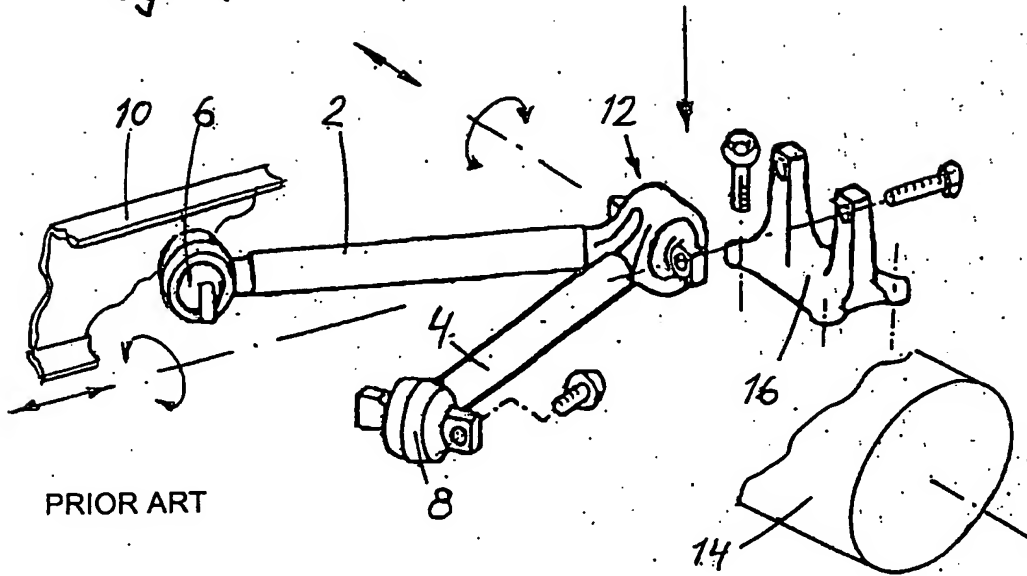


Fig. 2

